



Women's Premier League Grand Final - Donny Bring it Home!

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Doncaster bring home their first cup in 25 years

Doncaster's Premier League Women have not held a premiership cup aloft for 25 years. That all changed on Sunday when the Dons held their season's undefeated record intact and claimed a 3-1 victory over Greensborough. The score looks like a comfortable win. Nothing could be further from the truth. Greensborough won premierships in 2011, 12 and 13, Burra knew what was required to win flags and applied that pressure all day.

The opening three minutes were typical of a final with neither side being able to control general play. But at the three-minute mark Doncaster's Georgia Pascoe intercepted a Greensborough pass and handed off to Madi Ratcliffe who pushed into the scoring circle and her shot at goal found the narrowest of gaps to put the Dons on the board.

The early goal meant very little to Greensborough who simply settled into their system and peppered their circle. Three short corners at the six, seven and ten minute marks reflected their pressure but Doncaster's battery led by Meg Pearce kept the net clean.



Meg Pearce - charging down short corners one minute, pushing forward the next Photo by Andrew Pywell

A classic finals arm wrestle followed with both sides holding the ball and building pressure, but defences were holding sway. Doncaster were looking more threatening when pushing forward but deep penetration was scarce. Fast breaks to both sides within two minutes of half time brought the crowd to their feet but both shots were just wide of the net and Doncaster would take the single first half goal to the break.

With the temperature in the mid 20's the break was most welcome and Greensborough came back fresher. The Burra knew a goal had to be recovered and they were single minded, controlling general play and building pressure. A short corner at the three-minute mark was once again kept at bay by Pearce's charge. But the Greensborough pressure did take its toll and a Doncaster pass fell to the Greensborough striker who pushed into the circle and scored.

Greensborough had now levelled the score and held the momentum. Memories of recent grand final victories would have been flooding back. However, Doncaster have played 2015 with greater composure and the experienced Sam Snow and Maria Romagosa steadied the ship from the back half and the Dons put the brakes on the Burra's surge. Pearce, Liz Flack and Hayley Padget started to shine through the midfield and slowly the momentum swung back.



Maria Romagosa - Player of the Match - turning defence into attack Photo by
Andrew Pywell

Greensborough's pressure was consistent and while the Dons built pressure, passes were off the mark. The arm wrestle continued.

With just 11 minutes left to play Flack and Nic Hogan combined to push the ball deep into attack. Hogan found Ratcliffe who passed to Izzy Peskett and she pushed into the circle. A Greensborough foot led to just Doncaster's third short corner for the match. While the first short corner was defended another Burra foot led to a second. On this occasion a powerful Romagosa shot hit the backboard at speed. Doncaster's composure and consistent pressure was rewarded.



Maria Romagosa puts Donny in front, 2-1, Sarah Down and Madi Ratcliffe celebrate from the bench Photo by Peter Rennie

And the Dons weren't finished, they continued to hold possession and pepper the circle, the Burra continued to fight tooth and nail.

With seven minutes on the clock, Romagosa intercepted a Burra pass outside the 25-metre line and took on three defenders pushing into the circle. A Burra obstruction led to a Doncaster short corner. Ratcliffe dummied a shot and handed off to Snow and her powerful drag flick found the net. 3-1 with the clock ticking and the organisers might have been putting green and gold ribbon on the cup.



**DONCASTER
HOCKEY CLUB**



Madi Ratcliffe dummies her short corner shot and Sam Snow is ready for the hand off, Sam's shot puts Donny 3-1 up Photo by Peter Rennie



Donny girls celebrate Sam's goal Photo by Peter Rennie



DONCASTER HOCKEY CLUB

Greensborough continued to throw everything at the Dons but their outstanding defensive record was earned through strong resolve and it stood. After a 25-year drought, the team of green and gold held a cup high.



It's all over now Baby Blue ... Photo by Anrew Pywell

Doncaster 3 defeated Greensborough 1

Goals: Madi Ratcliffe, Maria Romagosa, Sam Snow

Best players: Maria Romagosa, Meg Pearce, Sam Snow, Briony Hearn



DONCASTER HOCKEY CLUB



Doncaster Women's Premier League Premiers 2015 Photo by Reggie Pearce



Georgia Pascoe head-to-head with former team mate Nic Hammond Photo by Peter Rennie



DONCASTER HOCKEY CLUB



Nic Hogan takes the ball from defence and looks for an attacking option, maybe Izzy Peskett Photo by Peter Rennie



Izzy Peskett, never a backward step Photo by Peter Rennie



**DONCASTER
HOCKEY CLUB**



Emma Nangle as solid as at any time during the season Photo by Peter Rennie



The 25-year wait is over

DONCASTER WOMEN CLAIM THEIR FIRST TOP-FLIGHT PREMIERSHIP IN QUARTER OF A CENTURY

Graeme Down

DONCASTER'S women had not held a top-flight premiership cup aloft for 25 years.

That changed last Sunday when the Dons maintained their undefeated season record with a 3-1 grand final victory over Greensborough at the State Netball Hockey Centre.

The final scoreline suggests a comfortable win, but nothing could be further from the truth.

The Borough won premierships in 2011, 12 and 13 and, knowing what's required to win flags, applied that pressure all day.

At the three-minute mark, Doncaster's Georgia Pascoe intercepted a Greensborough pass and handed off to Madi Ratcliffe who pushed into the scoring circle and her shot at goal found the narrowest of gaps to put the Dons on the board.

The early goal meant very little to Greensborough, which settled into its system and peppered the circle.

Short corners at the six, seven and 10-minute marks reflected the pressure the Borough was applying but Doncaster's battery, led by Meg Pearce, kept the net clean.

A classic finals arm wrestle followed with both sides holding the ball and building pressure but defences were holding sway.



Doncaster celebrates its drought-breaking grand final win over Greensborough.

Picture: DONCASTER HOCKEY CLUB

Doncaster was looking more threatening when pushing forward but deep penetration was scarce.

Fast breaks to both sides, within two minutes of half time, brought the crowd to its feet but both shots were just wide of the net and the Dons took their single-goal lead to the break.

With the temperature in the mid-20s the break was most welcome and Greensborough came back the fresher.

The Borough knew a goal had to be recovered and it

was single minded, controlling general play and building pressure.

A short corner at the three-minute mark was once again kept at bay by Pearce's charge.

But the Greensborough pressure took its toll and a Doncaster pass fell to a Borough striker who pushed into the circle and scored.

Having levelled the score, the momentum was in Greensborough's favour and memories of recent grand final victories would have been flooding back.

But the experienced Sam Snow and Maria Romagosa steadied the ship from the back half as the Dons put the brakes on the Borough surge.

Pearce, Liz Flack and Hayley Padgett started to shine through the midfield and slowly the momentum swung back Doncaster's way.

With just 11 minutes left to play, Flack and Nic Hogan combined to push the ball deep into attack.

Hogan found Ratcliffe who passed to Izzy Pesket and

she pushed into the circle where a Greensborough foot led to just Doncaster's third short corner for the match.

While the first short corner was defended another Borough foot led to a second and, on this occasion, a powerful Romagosa shot hit the backboard at speed.

And the Dons weren't finished as they continued to hold possession and pepper the circle, though the Borough continued to fight tooth and nail.

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THE BIG DAY



Premier League women 2015 Grand Final
State Netball Hockey Centre
(Sunday, September 13)
Doncaster 3 defeated Greensborough 1
Goals: Madi Ratcliffe, Maria Romagosa, Sam Snow
Best players: Maria Romagosa, Meg Pearce, Sam Snow, Briory Hearn

cepted a Borough pass outside the 25m line and took on three defenders as she pushed into the circle.

A Borough obstruction led to a Doncaster short corner.

Ratcliffe dummied a shot and handed off to Snow and her powerful drag flick found the net for 3-1 and, with the clock ticking down, organisers might just have been putting green and gold ribbon on the cup.

Greensborough continued to throw everything at the Dons but their outstanding defensive record that was earned through strong resolve stood firm.

